

## Message Text

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50

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-05 L-02

AID-05 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /057 W  
----- 081311

R 181425Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SESTATE WASHDC 1919

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

RUEVPCJAMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG 1195

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0062

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SF

SUBJ: SURCHARGE ON U.S. CARGO TO SOUTH AFRICA AGAIN TO  
BE RAISED

REQ: DURBAN (A) 056; (B) 034

1. EFFECTIVE MARCH 14 CONGESTION SURCHARGES ON CARGO FROM UNITED STATES TO SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS WILL AGAIN BE RAISED SHARPLY. SURCHARGE ON CARGO FOR DURBAN WILL BE 40 PER CENT (NOW 20 PER CENT); CAPE TOWN 25 PER CENT (FROM 20 PER CENT); PORT ELIZABETH 50 PER CENT (NOW 35 PER CENT); EAST LONDON 100 PER CENT (FROM 50 PER CENT).

2. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS LAST WEEK'S DECISION TO DOUBLE CONGESTION SURCHARGE FROM ALL EUROPEAN AND BRITISH PORTS TO THE FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS TO 40 PER CENT FROM PRESENT 20 PER CENT, EFFECTIVE MARCH 3 (REFTEL (A).) REASON FOR INCREASED SURCHARGES IS EVER-WORSENING CONGESTION AT DURBAN,  
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EAST LONDON AND PORT ELIZABETH; CONGESTION AT CAPE TOWN

REPORTEDLY LESS SERIOUS.

3. ALTHOUGH TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED IN DURBAN IN MID-JANUARY (DURBAN A-112), HIGHER THAN AVERAGE RAINFALL AND LABOR SHORTAGES HAVE MITIGATED AGAINST HOPED-FOR IMPROVEMENT. DOUBLE SHIFT WORKING HAS ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED AT PORT ELIZABETH AND EAST LONDON, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, AND IN CAPE TOWN MID-DECEMBER.

4. ESTIMATES OF ADDITIONAL SHIPPING CHARGES DUE TO INCREASED SURCHARGES VARY WIDELY BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE FRESH IMPETUS TO ALREADY SERIOUS INFLATIONARY PRESSURES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

HOLMES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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